

Message Text

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SUBJ STRIKES IN THE MARITIMES

1. AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE THREE MAIN AREAS OF STRIKE ACTIVITY IN THE MARITIMES. FOR THE PAST FOUR WEEKS MEMBERS OF THE DOCKYARD TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL HAVE CONDUCTED ROTATING STRIKES AGAINST THE HALIFAX NAVAL DOCKYARD. ON JULY 7 THE CANADIAN MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD, THE UNION ORGANIZATION OF 64 HARBOR PILOTS IN THE ATLANTIC AREA, BEGAN A STRIKE AND ON THE SAME DAY LAST MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BROKE DOWN SO THAT STRIKE ACTION MAY BEGIN AT ANY TIME.

2. THE ROTATING STRIKES AT THE DOCKYARD ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY NINE LOCAL UNIONS (E.G. THE BOILERMAKERS UNION, THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS, THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS, UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS ETC.) COMPRISING THE DOCKYARD
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TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL. ABOUT 1700 WORKERS FROM THE

NINE UNIONS ARE TAKING PART IN THE STRIKE ACTION. THEY ARE SEEKING WAGE INCREASES OF BETWEEN ONE DOLLAR EIGHTY-FIVE CENTS AND TWO DOLLARS ELEVEN CENTS AN HOUR AND A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE IN THEIR NEW CONTRACT. ALTHOUGH THE MEN ARE EMPLOYED BY THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AT THE DOCKYARD, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED WITH THE FEDERAL TREASURY BOARD WHICH SO FAR HAS OFFERED ONE DOLLAR FIFTY-FOUR CENTS OVER TWO YEARS WITHOUT ANY COST OF LIVING ARRANGEMENT.

3. AT ONE POINT IN MID-JUNE THE DOCKYARD TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL ACCUSED ADMIRAL DOUGLAS BOYLE OF MARITIME COMMAND OF STRIKEBREAKING BECAUSE HE ORDERED PERSONNEL OF HMCS ATHABASCAN TO TAKE OVER NEEDED REPAIR WORK. THE ADMIRAL'S OFFICE EXPLAINED THAT THE ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN SO THAT THE ATHABASCAN WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT TO SEA TO MEET ITS TRAINING AND OPERATIONS SCHEDULE. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THE CREW WERE TRAINED TO DO THE TYPE OF REPAIR WORK IN QUESTION AND OFTEN DID SO WHEN THE SHIP WAS NOT IN HALIFAX. THE MATTER NOW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DROPPED. (THIS EPISODE OCCURRED JUST AFTER ADMIRAL BOYLE'S BRIEFING TO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MP'S WHICH ROUSED THE ANGER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN OTTAWA, (CON GEN TEL 194).

4. THE STRIKE ACTION BY THE HARBOR PILOTS INVOLVES 16 COMPULSORY PILOTAGE ZONES IN ATLANTIC CANADA (EXCLUDING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND). THE PILOTS' CONTRACT WITH THE ATLANTIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITY, THE FEDERAL CROWN AGENCY WHICH EMPLOYS THE PILOTS, EXPIRED ON JANUARY 31, 1975. THE PILOTS HAVE BEEN IN A LEGAL POSITION TO STRIKE FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS. CONTRACT TALKS BROKE OFF FINALLY ON JULY 5 AND THE FEDERAL MEDIATOR, MAC LAM CARSON, RETURNED TO OTTAWA. THE CONTRACT DISPUTE INCLUDES WAGES AND OTHER ISSUES, NOT MADE PUBLIC. THE FIFTEEN HALIFAX PILOTS ARE THE HIGHEST PAID AMONG THE STRIKERS. (A DALHOUSIE LAW PROFESSOR AND FEDERAL LABOR DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONER HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE HALIFAX PILOTS SALARIES BE RAISED FROM THE PRESENT 26,145 DOLLARS TO 30,197 DOLLARS). EFFECTS OF THE STRIKE IN ATLANTIC UNCLASSIFIED

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PORTS ARE LIKELY TO BE SERIOUS ESPECIALLY SINCE HALIFAX, WITH THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC, IS TRADITIONALLY FOG-BOUND A GREAT DEAL OF THE MONTH OF JULY.

5. IN THE CASE OF THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION, NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED AT THE PROVINCIAL NOT FEDERAL LEVEL AS THE CORPORATION IS A PROVINCIAL ENTITY. INVOLVED ARE 1,300 EMPLOYEES THROUGHOUT THE

PROVINCE. THE CORPORATION WAS OFFERED THEM A SIXTY
CENT HOURLY WAGE INCREASE IN A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WHEREAS
THE EMPLOYEES ARE ASKING FOR ONE DOLLAR SEVENTY CENTS
OVER THE SAME PERIOD. WITH THE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS
THE LOCAL UNION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS HAS BEEN IN A POSITION TO GO OUT ON
STRIKE SINCE JULY 5. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNION SAID,
"THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING THE DECISIONS ... IT IS THE
RULE BY CRISIS PRACTICES AGAINST MOST GOVERNMENT AND
CROWN CORPORATION EMPLOYEES". THIS NO DOUBT A
REFERENCE TO THE PROVINCIAL HANDLING OF THE RECENT
NURSES STRIKE, CONGEN TEL 222.) A SPOKESMAN FOR THE
CORPORATION HAS SAID THAT SUPERVISORY STAFF ARE STANDING
BY TO TAKE OVER AS SOON AS STRIKE ACTION IS CALLED BY
THE UNION.
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